

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14278 01 OF 02 261703Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAM-01 ACDE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-13 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1348

USMISSION USBERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GE GW FR US UK UR

SUBJECT: REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR ALLIED PROTEST ON
GDR OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 1766; (B) BONN 14288; (C) BONN 14176

1. PRESS GUIDANCE FOR ALLIED PROTEST ON GDR OBSTRUCTION
OF BERLIN TRANSIT, AS CONTAINED IN REF (C), HAS BEEN
REVISED TO MEET BRITISH CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REF (B),
FRENCH CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROTEST TEXT, AND
USBER SUGGESTION IN REF (A).

2. THE REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

1. WHEN AND WHERE WAS THE PROTEST HANDED OVER AND WHAT
FORM DID IT TAKE?

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PAGE 02 BONN 14278 01 OF 02 261703Z

A. THE PROTEST TOOK THE FORM OF A WRITTEN NOTE WHICH WAS HANDED TO THE COUNSELOR OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN BY THE CHAIRMAN POLITICAL ADVISER IN BERLIN, ON BEHALF OF THE THREE ALLIES. THE NOTE WAS HANDED OVER ON AUGUST 26.

2. WHY WAS THIS CHANNEL USED?

A. THIS IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED CHANNEL FOR TRANSACTING BUSINESS CONCERNING BERLIN WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

3. WHAT WERE THE CONTENTS OF THE PROTEST?

A. IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS. HOWEVER, THE PROTEST MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE THREE ALLIES CONSIDER THAT THE OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC WHICH OCCURRED ON 13 AUGUST CONSTITUTED A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE QA AND CALLS UPON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QA TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO BERLIN SHOULD REMAIN UNIMPEDED.

4. WHAT ARE THE EXACT REASONS WHICH LED YOU TO PROTEST?

A. IN THE QA, THE SOVIET UNION DECLARED THAT TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO BERLIN WOULD BE UNIMPEDED. THIS SOVIET UNDERTAKING WAS INFRINGED BY THE GDR ON AUGUST 13. GDR AUTHORITIES QUESTIONED TRAVELERS AS TO WHY THEY WANTED TO GO TO BERLIN. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION IN THE QA FOR IMPEDING TRAFFIC TO BERLIN ON THE BASIS OF EVENTS OCCURRING IN THE CITY OR TRAVELERS' REASONS FOR GOING THERE.

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PAGE 01 BONN 14278 02 OF 02 261703Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14278

5. BUT THE GDR HAS TRIED TO CLAIM THAT THE TRAVELERS INTENDED TO MISUSE THE TRANSIT ROUTES AND THE QA PROVIDES FOR TRAVELERS TO BE TURNED BACK IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT REASON TO SUSPECT THIS.

A. THE FRG HAS INFORMED US OF THESE CLAIMS MADE IN THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING ON 18 AUGUST. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT SUCH MISUSE WAS INTENDED AND INTENDS TO REFUTE THESE CHARGES AT THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 30 AUGUST.

6. WHY DID YOU NOT PROTEST TO THE GDR?

A. OUR PROTEST CONCERNS A VIOLATION OF THE QA: ONLY THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14278 02 OF 02 261703Z

PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT. THE GDR, WITH THE FRG, IS PARTY TO THE TTA, THE NEGOTIATION OF WHICH WAS A PRE-CONDITION FOR THE BRINGING INTO FORCE OF THE QA. THE FRG IS PURSUING WITH THE GDR, THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, ITS VIEW THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE TTA.

7. ARE THE ALLIES THEMSELVES SATISFIED THAT THE GDR ACTION CONSTITUTED A BREACH OF THE TTA?

A. YES. THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE TTA ARE MERELY AN ELABORATION OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AGREED TO AMONG THE FOUR POWERS IN THE QA. THE PARTIES TO THE TTA ARE, OF COURSE, THE FRG AND THE GDR, AND THE EVENTS

OF 13 AUGUST ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THEM,
USING MECHANISMS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TTA. THE ALLIES
SUPPORT THE ATTITUDE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
END TEXT
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